RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

March, 1997

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

RNA ELECTIONS

The following names have been placed in nomination for the 1997-1998 term for the RNA executive positions of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Sgt.-at-Arms. Nominations will remain open until the March 11th meeting - at which time they will be closed and the election voting will take place at the end of the meeting.

To be eligible to vote and to hold office, you must pay your annual 1997 dues and live within the boundaries of RNA: Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Congress Street. To be nominated, the name of an eligible member is offered by either another person or themselves and then seconded by another member.

CHAIRPERSON:	GREG BRICKEY VITO BRUNETTI MARIA TUZZO
VICE- CHAIR:	GREG BRICKEY ALLISON FERRARI-FONTANA
SECRETARY:	ALLISON FERRARI-FONTANA MARIA TUZZO
TREASURER:	ERNEST QUINTERO JACK REA
SGT.-AT-ARMS:	CAROL REBELOWSKI

The success and longevity of RNA has been based on the participation of many different people. Get involved by nominating someone or being nominated yourself! Participate in this important neighborhood activity and have a voice in decisions being made in your community.

LOOKING FOR A PART TIME JOB?

RNA will be interviewing individuals for two part-time positions the City has offered to local residents:

1) A **park attendant** in Riverview-Fisk Park to supervise maintenance, landscaping and coordination of park activties. Public Works will hire someone to work 20 hours a week at $8/hour. This is a year round position.

2) Dept. of Recreation is looking for several individuals to **supervise basketball and other children's activities** in the Park during the summer. If interested, contact RNA.

IN MEMORY OF

Marie Ipsaro was a quiet, dignified woman who lived her life on the cliff side of Ogden Avenue. She was devoted to her family and her community. She was one of the RNA's original members when it started in 1984. She spent many hours each week doing volunteer work for Christ Hospital.

"Dee", as she was affectionately called by family and friends alike, passed away last month at her son's home down the shore. Although she was not active in the neighborhood near the end of her life, she will be missed by all her neighbors and friends. Jack Rea and his family fondly remember their long-time next door neighbor:

Dee (Marie) Ipsaro was a neighbor of ours for many years. I remember how very close she and her husband were - they cared so much for one another.

After the passing of her husband, she went to volunteer at Christ Hospital. She loved doing that work and did more than she volunteered for.

She was not the type of person to meddle in other people's affairs. She was very quiet and we miss her going up and down the walkway from her home. She always had a big smile. Even her animal friends greeted her on the way home from voluneering because they knew she would stop and give them a dog biscuit. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

JERSEY CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

For the upcoming municipal elections, RNA is inviting the candidates for mayor and the council positions of Ward C, Ward D and at-large to our next two meetings. RNA has decided against debates but instead will set-up informal get-to-know sessions. Each candidate will be asked to make a 10 minute presentation and then answer questions from our membership. [The Heights Coalition is organizing formal debates which will be announced within the month.]

Mayoral candidates Jeremiah Healey and Jaime Vasquez will be guest speakers at the March 11th meeting. Gerry McCann has accepted and Bret Schundler has been invited to the April 8th meeting. Council candidates will be invited to the April 8th meeting.

To make these meetings productive, RNA requests that each member prepare several questions for each candidate about local problems or issues.

RNA COMMUNITY GARDENS

The community garden in Riverview-Fisk Park will soon reopen for it's third season. Located across Ogden Avenue from the basketball courts, the garden provides free space for our neighbors to grow their own vegetables and flowers.

Gardeners from the last two seasons know first hand how much fun it is to plant something and watch it grow. They also know how rewarding it is to set a good example and see it have a positive effect on the neighborhood. Any person living in the nearby area is eligible for garden space. The only requirement is that they must agree to maintain their plot throughout the growing season. Children must bring an adult with them when applying for garden space.

Anyone interested in reserving space in the community garden or in joining the park committee can reach Greg at **792-6390**.

MEETING MINUTES: February 11, 1997

NOMINATIONS: The meeting began with the opening of the nominations for the annual election of RNA officers. (See article on page one for the list of candidates).

TRAFFIC ENGINEERING: Pat Blake, Supervisor of Traffic Investigations with the Jersey City Division of Traffic Engineering was the guest speaker at our February meeting. Ms. Blake is in charge of placement and installation of all signals, signs, traffic controls, pavement markings, public service lights, permit parking, and reserved handicap parking throughout the City.

Traffic Engineering (TE) is presently looking into permit parking for north Palisade and Ogden Avenues. TE officials have been surveying license plates in this area during the day to see if the parked cars are registered to residents or out-of-town commuters. If a large portion are found to be commuters, this means that residents are being prevented from parking on their own streets. The City would then offer permit parking to the local residents.

Permit parking would restrict parking for non-permit holders to 2 hours maximum, in an effort to limit out-of-towners parking on the neighborhood streets. It is suspected that commuters drive to our area to park, catch the buses and transit vans and avoid additional zone fares on buses. These permits would cost $1 a permit for residents and workers in the area. To obtain a permit, the vehicle must be clear of any parking tickets.

TE is also reviewing all handicap permits older than 6 months, to insure that all are merited.

There was discussion of the problem of speeding, which Ms. Blake says is a city wide problem. In particular, it was noted that Ogden Avenue between Griffith and Congress is subject to this problem, especially in the morning rush hour. Speed bumps and rumble strips were suggested, but are not legal for this situation. Signs will be put up in the near future, and the police will be asked to set up a radar speed trap. In the spring, TE will paint '25 MPH' on the pavement, but street markings are not enforceable. "Children at Play" signs will be considered for the street running through Riverview-Fisk Park. Another option discussed for this through street was to 'vacate' the Park block. This would involve City Council and the Zoning Board; TE would be involved only to study & report.

A stop sign was suggested for Ogden at Bowers. Ms. Blake agreed to study the problem, including accident analysis for the intersection.

Palisade Avenue's truck route status was discussed. In order to repeal this status, state law requires that another equivalent north-south route would have to be designated. Ms. Blake explained that trucks do not need justification to travel on a truck route, although a bill of lading is needed for them to travel on side streets.

RNA requested a 'keep intersection clear' sign for the intersection of Palisade & Griffith.

Ms. Blake's department also handles PSE&G lighting. For repairs, get the pole number (on a metal plate on the pole, letters & numbers ending in 'JC') and call Traffic Engineering (547-4470). For new lights, a letter is needed.

Ms. Blake also agreed to study the recent traffic and parking problems at Woods Place, where the Popular Supermarket and the Christ Hospital clinic have brought in more traffic and new parking demands. TE will do an accident analysis for this intersection.

Popular Supermarket's loading zone on Palisade Ave has been rescinded but is in the process of being reestablished. The resolution has been passed Councilman Gaughan needs to approve it. The loading zone would be smaller than original one that A&P had.

Harbor View's loading zone is still on hold. Ms. Blake will check into it. Ms. Blake stated she would submit a written report to RNA discussing each of these issues.

NEIGHBORHOOD TASK FORCE (NTF) POLICE: Police officers Lorenzo Tosado, Scott Schnee, David Murawinski (new to our neighborhood), Sgt. Lisi and Sgt. Robert Kilduff reported on police activities in the area. (The other two NTF officers for our area, not present at the meeting, are Keith Armstrong and Mark Conroy.)

The officers will ask for additional patrols in the Palisade/Franklin/Ogden area from 1AM to 5AM to address loitering and possible drug dealing reported. They attribute this new late night activity to the success of the NTF police, who work the 2PM to 10PM shift. They may reevaluate the midnight shift schedule based on this information.

The officers updated several prior RNA concerns:

a) The tow truck that was parked in Riverview-Fisk Park for months was finally removed;

b) The police spoke to the plumbing store on Palisade that allowed their dog to run loose in the Park and streets, and it is believed the problem is cleared up;

c) The police informed the group that parole was denied for a local man who had been convicted of the burglary of one of our neighbors and he will finish out his sentence in jail.

RNA SPRINGTIME ACTIVITIES: Organizing for the spring flea market will start in the next month. Volunteers have agreed to meet before the March meeting to start planning. Proposed dates for the event are June 7, with rain date June 14.

The Community Garden will hold its first planning session beginning in early March. Interested gardeners should call Greg at 792-6390.

Joan Earls, the Director of the Department of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, says she's ready to start hiring local people for the summer basketball league. She would also like to have other athletic & nonathletic activities in the Park this summer, and will hire part time seasonal workers to support this.

A motion was made and approved to spend $100 for mailing costs of the newsletter.

Cathy Packard, Secretary

NID PROGRESS REPORT

[Each month RNA will publish the projects that our Neighborhood Improvement District (NID) Managers, Ufredo Merchan and Billy Rodolfos are working on.]

BILLY RODOLFOS (North-7):

As I do every day, I escort the high school kids around the neighborhood and clean-up the streets and exterior of the catch basins. I also patrol the area to enforce any ordinance violations. I have patrolled Palisade and Ogden Avenues more lately due to a couple of complaints which I have received.

On February 18, 1997, in a joint effort between the NIDs of North-6, North-7 and North-9, Holland Street between Paterson Plank Road and Palisade Avenue was cleaned. We filled and removed 25 bags of garbage that had been dumped there.

The sidewalk and catch basins located in front of 130 Griffith Street and 102 South Street were repaired. Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) Carrol Pasquale had these repairs accomplished within two days. I will be introducing her at the next RNA meeting.

The NID managers have been sworn in and now have the power to issue summonses.

I had the street lights at the following locations repaired: 326, 418, 464 Central Avenue; 151 Cambridge Avenue; 272 Hancock Avenue; 278 Sherman Avenue; SE corner f Congress and New York Avenue.

UFREDO MERCHAN (North-6):

Ufredo held his first NID meeting at Harbor View, before the start of the regular RNA February session.

However, during the month, Ufredo was not able to be contacted, despite numerous messages left on his voice mail and beeper.

CALL YOUR NID MANAGERS and tell them about a problem or complaint in your neighborhood or a suggestion to improve it.

Billy Rodolfos, whose NID includes Ogden and Palisade north of Griffith Street, can be reached through his voice mail at **547-4974, EXT. 8021.**

Ufredo Merchan, whose NID includes Ogden and Palisade south of Griffith, can be reached at his voice mail, **547-4974, EXT. 8015.**

Code Enforcement Officer Larry Wilson, who works with Ufredo, can be reached at **547-4974, EXT. 8061** or **502-2968.**

Remember, these Managers and CEOs can only be effective if you inform them of the local problems. Get to know them and as important, let them get to know you and your neighbors.

HUDSON COUNTY ANIMAL LEAGUE

P.O. Box 3589, Jersey City, N.J. 07303
(201) 200-1008

The League needs your help. Here are some of the things you can do to help our four-footed friends:

a) **Donate money**. All donations are tax deductible and do directly to care for animals in need.

b) **Donate time**.We always need people to help at community events; to work on fundraisers; to write grant proposals; to help with mailings; to answer questions that come in on the phone line; to reach out to community groups; to screen potential adopters; to transport animals to veterinarians, and to build outdoor feral cat shelters.

c) **Donate love**. Foster a cat or dog in need. The League will pay all veterinary expenses up until adoption. You provide food and loving care.

d) **Donate materials.** We need food, carriers, traps, blankets, towels, office supplies.

e) **Adopt from the League.** We have beautiful cats and dogs in homes waiting to be adopted. If we do not have what you are looking for, please go visit your local shelter, the SPCA on Johnston Avenue in Jersey City and save a life.

f) **Have your pet spayed (female) or neutered (male).** There are too many dogs and cats, including purebreds, dying in shelters every day. Call 1-800-321-PETS or People For Animals at 908-964-6887 for low-cost spay/neuter programs.

g) **Attend a League Meeting.** We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Pershing Field Community Center in Pershing Field Park, Jersey City Heights at 7:30 PM. Come and meet other concerned animals lovers and help save lives.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The cost of RNA's annual membership is $5 per person. Membership entitles you to nine issues of our newsletter, and voting privileges in RNA, if you live within the boundaries. Please support your community by paying your dues at the next meeting, or sending a check, payable to RNA, to 232 Ogden Avenue. (Any paid member who has not received their newsletters or a membership card, contact Jack Rea.)

The Executive Committee

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Drop off articles, comments and/or recipes in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." The next deadline is **Friday, March 21, 1997.**

Bulletin board

photography Show

Peter Zirnis is a Jersey City based photographer. His current exhibition of color photography documents some of the striking architecture of Jersey City, including 444 Palisade Avenue from our neighborhood.

The Architectural Landscape of Jersey City, N.J. runs from February 8 to March 30 at Mixed Grill, 516 Jersey Ave. For more info: (201) 332-9023 .

Art Exhibitions

If any local artists would like to advertise their upcoming shows or exhibitions, please submit the information at least one month in advance to RNA for publication in our newsletter.

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Grilled Fajitas

("Simply the best fajitas you'll ever taste.")

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 chicken breasts (skinned and deboned)
- 1 cup Italian salad dressing
- 1 can (4 oz.) diced green chiles
- 8 flour tortillas
- 1/3 cup extra-sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup diced tomato
- 1 cup shredded lettuce
- hot sauce

1) Combine Italian salad dressing and green chiles.
2) Pour mixture over chicken breasts and marinate in a covered container for at least 6 hours in the refrigerator, turning occasionally.
3) Grill chicken breasts until done (5-7 minutes per side).
4) Slice across the grain, cutting the chicken into thin strips.
5) Assemble fajitas by placing a few pieces of chicken on a warmed flour tortilla.
6) Top with cheese, tomato and lettuce.
7) Cover filling with hot sauce and roll tortilla together.

Road to Success

Throw away all ambition beyond that of doing the day's work well. The travelers on the road to success live in the present, heedless of taking thought for the morrow. Live neither in the past nor in the future, but let each day's work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your widest ambition.

William Osler

Recycle this Newsletter
Pass it on to a friend

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado, David Murawinski** or **Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit at 547-5391.** Ask to speak to the Narcotics Detectives in the North District. All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Neighborhood Task Force

Community Service Survey

Name:_____
Address:_____
Home Phone:_____
Block Association:_____
Complaint & Observations for the period of_____

List the Locations for the following Problems:

Disorderly Groups:_____
Public Nuisances: _____
Narcotics Activity:_____
Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: _____
Suspicious Activity:_____
Heavy Trucking: _____
Auto Thefts:_____
Burglaries:_____
Prostitution: _____
Gambling:_____
Other:_____
_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: C.M. Archer, Greg Brickey, Kathy Packard, Jack Rea, Madeline Rea, Valerie Rea, Maria Tuzzo, Rosemary Venter, Patrick Moore
GRAPHICS: Russell Pratt, Raquel Sweeney
CIRCULATION: Jack Rea, Maria Tuzzo

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON
March 11th at 7:15 PM at the
HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

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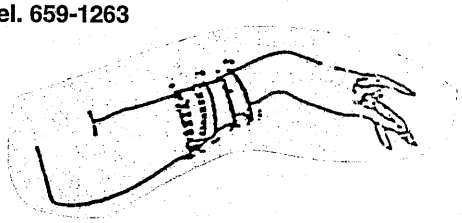

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Office 201 330-1899
Fax 201 330-1434

Hear and Meet the Mayoral Candidates:
Jeremiah Healey & Jaime Vasquez at the
next RNA meeting on Tuesday, March 11th at 7:15 PM

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Greg Brickey
Vice-chairperson

Kathy Packard
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Carol Rebelowski
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, MARCH 11th at 7:15 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) GUEST SPEAKERS: Two Mayoral Candidates
JEREMIAH HEALEY & JAIME VASQUEZ

2) Annual Election OF RNA OFFICERS

3) NID MANAGERS: Ufredo Merchan & Billy Rodolfos
POLICE OFFICERS: Scott Schnee & Lorenzo Tosado

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FOR THE RIVERVIEW COMMUNITY GARDENS
(RNA is starting to plan for the spring planting season!
Come to the March 11th meeting.)